

# Using Past Experience to Improve the Future

## Winter Safety



### What You Might Not Know

- In the months of January and February, 25 Coal Mining Fatalities occurred during 1999 to 2003: 14 in January and 11 in February. These fatalities accounted for 15% of the total fatalities for the same 5-year period.
- 15 (60%) occurred underground, while 10 (40%) occurred on the surface.
- 9 (36%) were Falls of Roof/Rib/Face or Highwall
- 8 (32%) of the fatalities were contractors.
- 7 (28%) were Powered Haulage/Machinery.
- 3 (12%) were Electrical.
- 3 died in a methane explosion while developing a mine shaft.
- 6 (24%) of the victims had one year or less experience at the mine.
- 2 of the victims had less than one month's experience at the mine.
- 11 of the victims had more than 20 years total mining experience.

# Safety Through Accident Prevention



What can be done at your mine to address these winter weather hazards?

- Winter weather can have adverse effects in both surface and underground mines.
- Falling ice hazards affect surface facilities, mine shafts, and elevators.
- Freezing and thawing, as well as changes in humidity, affect underground roof and surface highwall stability.
- Snow and ice cause hazardous road conditions.
- The warming of cold air dries coal mine dusts, increasing the potential for more serious explosions and dusty roadways.
- Winter storms cause greater changes in barometric pressure, resulting in increased methane liberation.
- Frozen water pipes affect underground fire protection.